steps are being taksbn by Government to promote the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A confederation between Jordan and an independent Palestinian State is one of several proposals under discussion. The matter is essentially one for the concerned parties to decide. India will fully support any action agreed to by them which will secure the just and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self determination and independence.

Delay in Delhi-Guwahati air service

662. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of flights to and from Delhi and Guwahati which had been delayed in 1988 till September by Indian Airlines; and

'(b) whether it is a fact that the Air-crafts fly in this line are sufficiently old and need urgent replacement!

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) During the period January 1988 to September 1988, out of a total of 1,055 flights of Indian Airlines between Delhi and Guwahati. 437 were delayed, of which only 33 were in the control of Indian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

***Raising of the* Compensation money *to* Air Victims**

663. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that compensa tion of Rs. -2 lakhs for the air crash vic tims is too small;

(b) whether any proposal for raising this amount to Rs. 5 lakhs has been pend. ing consideration by Government for long as reported in 'Sunday Observer' of 23rd October 1988; and

(c) whit compensation is paid to domestic passengers in US and various other European countries and Japan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) The carriers liability to make payment of compensation in the event of death or injury to passeneers is governed by international instruments like Warsaw Convention 1929 as modified i Hague Protocol 1955. The Carriage by Air Act, 1972 which flows out of the above Convention and Protocol prescribes a limit of liability on the Carrier. In 1973 this limit was raised from Rs. 42,000|-to Rs. 1.00.000/. for domestic carriage for a passenger of 12 years or more years of age. in 1980 this limit was raised from Rs. 1.00,0001. to Rs. 2,00,000|. Information relating to linv't of liability in other countries is under collection.

Compulsory study of Sanskrit.

664. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: i the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT bo rfsaSed to state what steps have been fken by Government to popularise anj for compulsory study of Sanskrit language in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION] AMD CULTURE TN THE MINI-TRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): The Centra! Board of Secondly Education has this year revised the scheme of studies fo_r secondary examinations from 1993 omvardc to ensure adherence to provisions of National Policy on Education which would require a candidate to study Hindi. English and one of the modern Tndian languages. Sanskrit will be tausht alonq with Hindi to candidates taking H-ndi 'A' level course Also candidates will be able to offer one of the seven classical and European laneuapes. including Sanskrit, as an adoitional optional subject. The States have their own agencies

io work out and prescribe the scheme of studies to be followed by their schools. . this, the Government of India has also framed various schemes to give financial assistance- to voluntary Sanscrit organisations to promote study of Sans-farfe.

Modernisation of Indira Gandhi international Airport

665. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWD-HURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM bc pleased io state;

(a) whether Government have any plan consideration to further modernise the Indira Gandhi International Airport Jt New Delhi;

(b) if so, what are main feature^ of the plan;

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(d) by when it would lie completed
modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIU: fa) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are proposals to upgrade and modernise air traffic control systems and communication and navigation lities in order to enhance the aircraft movement handling capabilities of the airport and to further expand the passenger handling capabilities of the interna-•ional terminal at lndira Gandhi International Airport. Delhi.

The projects are at formative stages and the details are under finalisation.

Fonr-laniiig of National Highvtajs

666. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWD-HURY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan under consideration for conversion of National Highways into lour lane^ and two lanes roads, to avoid accident make faster traffic;

(b) if so, what are the names of such highways which arc likely to be widened into four lanes and two lanes;

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been obtained for the purpose and if so, ihc details thereof: and

(d) by when the work on such Highways is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Development of National Highways including widening to 2 lanes and 4 lanes i_s a continuous process, depending upon intensity of traffic in terms of P.C.U. (Passenger Car Units) availability of funds and other inter-se priority of schemes.

(c) Yes, Sir. Details of schem which foreign assistance have been ob tained are given in the enclosed statement *(See* below)

(d) The work on such highway projects
is likely to he complete^ by 1993.

Statement

Name of the Projects

7. Widening to four-lanes Khumvi-.Tullundur Section of NH. 1 in Punjab.

   \Videning to four-Janes Murthal-Karnil Section of NH-1 in Haryana.

3. Alimedabad-Vadodira Expressway (NH-8).

4. Varanasi-Byepass and Ganga Bridge (NH. 2) .

   New two line road on the Caleutta-Durgaptir Expressway alignment (NH. 2)

   Widening to four lanes/strengthening two lanes in (he Madras-Vilhipuram Section of NH. 15 in Tamil Nadu.